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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Hiroaki TAKAIWA

Group Art Unit: 2851

Application No.: 10/589,665

Examiner: M. LIU

Filed: August 16, 2006

Docket No.: 129125

For: EXPOSURE APPARATUS AND DEVICE MANUFACTURING METHOD

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION AND ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENTS

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the February 12, 2009 Restriction and Election of Species Requirements, Applicant provisionally elects Group I, claims 14-35, 59-80, 104 and 105, and Species A, Fig. 4, with traverse. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 14-35 of Group I read on the elected species A (Fig. 4).

It is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims and Species would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present